

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID AND JAMES R. MCCRANIE. 1984. *Bothrops nasuta*.

***Bothrops nasuta* Bocourt**

Bothrops nasutus Bocourt, 1868:202. Type-locality, "Pansos, sur les bords du Polochic (Guatemala)" (Panzós, Depto. Alta Verapaz). Holotype, Mus. Nat. Hist. Natur. Paris 1592 (Stuart, 1963), sex, collector, and date not given (not examined by authors).

Porthidium nasutum: Cope, 1871:207.

Bothriopsis proboscideus Cope, 1876:150. Type-locality, "Sipuri, at the base of the mountains [Prov. Limon, Costa Rica]." Holotype not designated. See REMARKS.

Bothrops lansbergii: Müller, 1878:703 (in error).

Bothrops brachystoma: Müller, 1882:154.

Bothriopsis [sic] *brachystoma*: Cope, 1887:89 (part).

Thanatos sutus Posada-Arango, 1889a:45-49 (paper not seen; see following combination).

Thanatophis sutus Posada-Arango, 1889b:344. Type-locality, "le district Zea [Depto. Antioquia, Colombia]." No holotype designated.

Bothriechis lansbergii: Günther, 1895:190 (part).

Lachesis brachystoma: Boulenger, 1896:547 (part).

Trimeresurus brachystoma: Mocquard, 1909:945 (part).

Bothrops lansbergii: Dunn, 1928:30 (part).

Bothrops nasuta: Amaral, 1929:25.

Trimeresurus nasutus: Dunn and Bailey, 1939:20.

Porthidium nasutum nasutum: Burger, 1971:35.

Porthidium nasutum sutum: Burger, 1971:35.

Bothriechis nasutus: Savage, 1980:88.

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

- DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. *Bothrops nasuta* is a relatively small pit viper ranging from about 162 to 463 mm in males and 156 to 635 mm in females. The dorsum is yellowish brown, pale brown, or gray with a series of 15 to 23 dark blotches, narrowly outlined with white, and a narrow white, orange, or orangish tan vertebral line dividing the blotches into right and left portions, which are frequently not aligned but rather alternate. The venter is heavily stippled with brown. The dorsum of the head frequently has a broad, arrow-shaped mark pointing anteriorly. The side of the head posterior to the eye is dark with a pale line extending ventrally from the anterior corner of the eye to the lip and one extending diagonally from the posterior corner of the eye to the angle, together outlining a dark subocular blotch. The chin is dark with white markings. Scutellation is as follows: 21-27 (\bar{x} = 23.0) scale rows at midbody; 123-143 ventrals in males, 127-145 in females; 27-41 subcaudals in males, 24-35 in females, entire; supralabials 8-11 (\bar{x} = 9.4); infralabials 9-13 (\bar{x} = 11.4); canthal usually single; internasals paired, elongate, elevated anteriorly, usually in contact; intercanthals 3-7; postcanthals 1-2, usually 1; interoculars 3-7; interoculars 19-28; prefoveals 2-12; subfoveals 1-7; suboculars 1-4; postoculars 1-4; oculabials 1-4. The loreal is wider than high. The upper preocular is large, extending dorsally over the canthal ridge. The middle preocular is divided or not, infrequently absent, in contact with the orbit or not. The lower preocular is single, infrequently absent, in contact with the orbit or not. The anal plate is single. The tail is not prehensile. Apical pits are absent. "The hemipenis is divided with a bifurcate sulcus spermaticus, the sulcus dividing close to the base of the organ and each branch extending to the distal end of the apical lobe. The basal portion of the organ and the areas lateral to and between the branches of the sulcus are spinulate. The shoulders and the abscutate side of the organ are covered with spines which increase gradually in size proximally, terminating with a pair of enlarged basal spines situated on either side of the sulcus. Distal areas of the apical lobes are calyculate with papillate microornamentation" (Porrás et al., 1981).

Bothrops nasuta differs from other members of the genus in the following combination of characteristics: color pattern of dark, alternating middorsal blotches, separated by a pale middorsal line, on a paler ground color; subcaudals single; tail not prehensile; size small; supralabials separated from border of loreal pit by small row of scales; internasals elongate and elevated anteriorly; ventrals 123-145; canthal single; scale rows at vent usually 19.

- DESCRIPTIONS. The most recent and comprehensive description of this species is in Porrás et al. (1981). Wilson and Meyer (1982) also provided a description of the species and included selected data on Honduran specimens.

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Color illustrations are provided by García (1896) and Nicéforo María (1938). Black and white photographs are found in Ditmars (1931), Taylor (1954), Medem (1968), Alvarez del Toro (1973), and Porrás et al. (1981). Amaral (1929) included drawings of the head and Brattstrom (1964) drawings of some osteological characters. Gutiérrez et al. (1979) illustrated the karyotype.

- DISTRIBUTION. *Bothrops nasuta* occurs at low and moderate elevations (near sea level to about 900 m) of the Caribbean versant from Chiapas, México to Colombia; also distributed on the Pacific versant in Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia, and Ecuador.

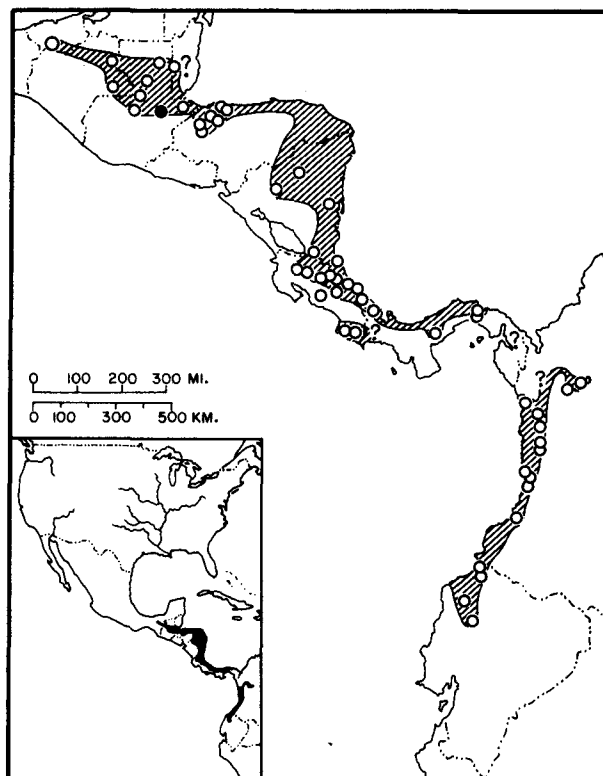
- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. Amaral (1929) revised the *Bothrops lansbergii* group and demonstrated that *B. nasuta* was a distinct species in that group. Porrás et al. (1981) provided a historical summary, a synonymy, a summary of distribution and ecology, an analysis of variation, and a biogeographic history of the species. Smith and Smith (1973, 1976) listed some of the literature on the species, including several popular works not included by Porrás et al. (1981).

- REMARKS. Amaral (1929) considered four specimens in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM) as "types" of *Bothriopsis proboscideus* Cope. However, Cochran (1961) did not include mention of these specimens. Savage (1970) indicated that the "type" specimen was lost.

Fitch (1981) indicated that males of the species are slightly larger than females (based on an unpublished master's thesis citing specimens from Colombia). However, Porrás et al. (1981) showed that females are larger throughout the range of the species.

- ETYMOLOGY. The name *nasuta* is derived from the Latin *nasutus* meaning "having a large nose," in reference to the upturned snout of this species.



MAP. Solid circle marks type-locality, hollow circles other localities. Question marks indicate uncertain areas of occurrence.

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